

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Alan Paul Rolleston Phillips

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

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For: CONTROLLER FOR CONTROLLING A SYSTEM

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination on the merits please amend the Application as follows.

In the Claims

Please amend Claims 15 and 17 as follows:

15. (Amended) A control device according to claim 12 having a sub-rank controller with an assessment means assessing according to the interaction scenario occurring during the response to a candidate proposition.

17. (Amended) A system controller comprising a plurality of control devices according to claim 12 arranged in a hierarchical structure of rank levels.

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment prior to examination is respectfully requested. The proposed amendments to the claims are intended to correct informalities therein so as to better comply with U.S. Patent Practice. Early consideration of this application is requested.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current preliminary amendment. The attached page is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.**"

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

15. (Amended) A control device according to claim 12 having a sub-rank controller with an assessment means assessing according to the interaction scenario occurring during the response to a candidate proposition.

17. (Amended) A system controller comprising a plurality of control devices according to [any one of claims 12 to 16] claim 12 arranged in a hierarchical structure of rank levels.